Inflation rate

23. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the inflation rate has crossed 4 per cent mark during the first nine months of the financial year 2007-08;

(b) if so, whether the prices of all the essential commodities have increased and the efforts taken by Government to control them have proved to be ineffective; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and further steps taken by Government to control increase in prices of essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The inflation measured in terms of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for all commodities and for 30 essential commodities are indicated in Table 1. Rate of inflation has moderated and continued to decelerate in the current year.

Table 1: WPI based annual rate of inflation (%)

Month-Year	All Commodities	30 Essential Commodities
Apr-07	6.3	3.3
May-07	5.5	1.7
Jun-07	4.5	0.9
Jul-07	4.7	2.8
Aug-07	4.1	2.7
Sep-07	3.5	1.2
Oct-07	3.1	0.6
Nov-07	3.3	0.7
Dec-07(P)	3.6	1.3
Jan-08(P)	3.9	2.4

P: Provisional

(c) Containment of inflation remains high on the agenda of the Government. Anti-inflationary policies of the Government include strict fiscal discipline, rationalization of duties of essential items, effective supply-demand management of essential commodities through liberal tariff and trade policies, and strengthening the public distribution system. The Monetary Policy of Reserve Bank of India, while being conducive to economic growth, has attempted to contain inflationary expectations arising out of uncertainties in domestic and international environment.

Allocation of funds/grants to Goa

24. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Goa has sought allotment of more funds to the State, during the visit of the Planning Commission's team to Goa, recently;

(b) the grounds advanced by the State Government;

(c) whether Government is considering the demand;

(d) if so, the details of the formula adopted for various types of funds/grants etc. to the State Governments; and

(e) whether better performance is a criteria for such allocation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) As per the information received from Planning Commission, during the visit of its Team to the State from 4th—6th February 2008, the Government of Goa sought allocation of more funds under the Annual Plan of the State for 2008-09 for some of the projects of importance to the State which, *inter alia,* include E-Governance, Development of Roads, and National Games 2011. Such proposals along with other Plan proposals will be considered in the meeting between Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and Hon'ble Chief Minister, Goa for finanlizing the Annual Plan of the State for 2008-09.

(d) and (e) Central Assistance for State Plans is allocated in accordance with the Gadgil-Mukherjee Formula (1991) which gives due weightage to backwardness, performance and special problems of the States.

Drugs related offences in Goa

25. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of drugs related offences registered in Goa in the last two years;

(b) the quantum of drugs seized in each of the cases, if any and their value;

(c) the number of prosecutions pending;

(d) the convictions obtained in each of the cases, if any; and

(e) the details of convictions and other related matters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The details of drugs seizures, quantum of drug seized, number of cases and number of persons arrested during the last two years in Goa are as under:

Drug	20%			2007 (Provisional)		
	Qty. (in kg)	No. of Cases	Persons Arrested	Qty. (in kg)	No. of Cases	Persons Arrested
Cocaine	0.060	3	4	0.010	1	1
Ganja	10.000	1	1	22.51	2	2
Hashish	56.480	19	25	28.240	14	18
Heroin	—	—	—	15.110	2	2
LSD		~~~		(no. 2077 of LSD paper)	3	1